10. A new underground Ticket House' has also been constructed and 'Light and Sound Show' upgraded.

The area (70 per cent) which was transferred yesterday by the Ministry of Defence/Army Headquarters to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture/ Archaeological Survey of India, would be planned for taking proper conservation and restoration measures. For undertaking necessary work in this regard, a high-level Advisory Committee has.been constituted and further action in the matter is in hand.

Disbursement of Crop Loans in M.P.

†*311. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of disbursement of crop loans in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01 by cooperative, commercial and regional rural banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of total percentage of crop loans (short term agricultural credit) about 73 per cent has been provided by the cooperative banks; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to increase the availability of agricultural credit by the commercial and regional rural banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, crop loans disbursed by various agencies in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01 were as follows:

Agency	Amount (Rs. Crores)	Percentage
Co-operative Banks	852	50.90
Regional Rural Banks	256	15.30
Commercial Banks	566	33.80
TOTAL	1,674	100

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken inter-alia the following measures to improve the flow of credit to agriculture:

Advising the commercial banks to step up their direct lending to agriculture to achieve the target of 18 per cent of Net Bank Credit;

Advising the public sector banks to prepare Special Agriculture Credit Plans (SACPs) for increasing the credit flow to agriculture;

Coverage of all eligible farmers by March 31, 2004 under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme;

Refinance to banks at concessional rate of interest to enable them to increase credit flow to agriculture sector;

Advising all public sector banks to provide crop loans up to Rs.50,000/- at 9 per cent rate of interest to cover almost all small and marginal farmers;

Lowering the rates of interest to banks on contribution to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) as a penalty for shortfalls in agriculture credit.

Amending the NABARD Act to facilitate NABARD to refinance District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) directly so as to reduce interest rates on crop loans by cooperatives.

Exemption of Income Tax

*312. SHRISUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not issued notification exemption income from Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana from income tax so far as was stipulated in the budget speech when the scheme was announced; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and by when the required notification is expected to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No such stipulation was made during the budget speech.